

and those impounded by the Forest Department during the Forest year 1894-95, the Revenue year coinciding with the Forest year :—

No.	Division.	Number of Cattle impounded by people.	Number of Cattle impounded by Forest Department.
1	East Khándesh ...	235,442	40,485
2	West Khándesh ...		
3	Násik ...	87,105	53,128
4	Ahmednagar ...	61,127	97,637
5	Poona ...	57,252	61,811
6	Sátára ...	38,762	52,888
7	Sholápur ...	27,950	31,969
Total ...		507,638	337,918

84. Fences, consisting of crown branches of the felled trees, have been erected round Forest reserves under reboisement, such as exploited coupes, plantations, &c., for keeping out cattle; and wire fencing has also been put up round some selected reserves, the material required having been purchased in the local market. The following are the details of the wire fence erected :—

No.	Division.	QUANTITY OF WIRE, STAPLES, &C., PURCHASED.		Expenditure incurred.	Length of Fence erected.	REMARKS.
		Wire.	Staples.			
		Cwt.	Cwt. qr. lbs.	Rs. a. p.	M. ft.	
1	East Khándesh ...	487	1 2 0	2,965	3 2,640	The wire in stock was used. Do. do.
2	West Khándesh ...	90	2 0 26	1,888	4 2,640	
3	Násik	52	1 4,560	
4	Ahmednagar	668	2 3,960	
5	Poona ...	40	2 0 0	2,128	8 165	
6	Sátára ...	60	0 2 2	733	0 4,663	
7	Sholápur ...	28	No. 27,000	1,300	7 2,221	
Total ...		705	6 1 0 No. 27,000	9,734	28 5,009	

(c).—IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST GROWTH.

(1).—*Natural Reproduction.*

85. Given a seasonable rainfall, the measures required to be taken to ensure or improve the natural reproduction in the forests may be described as—

- (a) the prevention of forest fires,
- (b) the exclusion of harmful grazing,
- (c) protection against illicit and irregular cuttings,
- (d) improvement fellings and removals.

Seeing that considerable attention has been given in years past, and is being given at present, to these important factors of efficient forest conservancy, natural production has been satisfactory on the whole, and is as good as can be expected where the above conditions are observed.

86. In the East Khándesh division the rains held off early in the season, but later on they were profuse, and the Divisional Forest Officer reports favourably on natural reproduction, and remarks :—

“After ascending the main range of the Sátputás near Panch-pándav in the Yával range a long stretch of wild country alternating with grassy plains and ravines clothed with dense forests, abruptly opens to the view of the spectator. This part of the Sátputa forests, owing to its comparative inaccessibility from the markets in Sávda and Yával, appears to have enjoyed immunity from the frequent application of the axe of the privilege holders, and these forests are consequently stocked with good and valuable timber.”

87. The Divisional Forest Officer of West Khándesh states “that the reproduction of teak in the Sátputás is very fair, though hampered in all directions by forest fires, while the reproduction of teak and Anjan (*Hardwickia*) from the stools of the departmentally felled trees is, as a rule, excellent.”

88. Mr. G. A. Hight, Deputy-Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officer of Násik, before leaving the country on the 25th March 1895, on special leave with a view to retirement from the service, left the following note with reference to the improvement of forest growth :—

“After having been away from the Deccan for about 15 years, I cannot help remarking a great improvement in the growth from what it was in the neighbouring district of Ahmednagar in 1878-79. One can no longer speak of absolutely bare hills containing nothing, but *Euphorbia* as a characteristic feature of the scenery in the Deccan. Almost everywhere growth has sprung up pretty thickly, and particularly in the Eastern part of the district, the beautiful and valuable Anjan is now very common. It may be that Násik was originally better wooded than Ahmednagar, still the trees have all the appearance of having grown in the last 15 years, owing not to closures, for I see no difference between closed lands and open ones, but to the stopping of cuttings.”

This opinion is, of course, deserving of great respect, but the Conservator does not admit that closure against cattle has been so ineffective during the past fifteen years, and that the presence of young timber in the Násik reserves is owing entirely to the prevention of cutting and felling. If cattle had not been excluded to the extent they have been, the reboisement which Mr. Hight noticed would not have been anything approaching to what it is, and the Conservator states this unhesitatingly after 25 years' continued personal experience of the Deccan hills, and the working of forest conservancy management. Not only in the Násik district, but in every other district the advancing growth of timber is marked and conspicuous in places, but there are areas where the improvement has been so very slow as not to be noticeable readily by any person other than a Forest Officer experienced in the reboisement of denuded and degraded hill and other lands; and over-grazing is the cause of this slow progress.

89. In the exploited coupes of past seasons which have been closed and protected efficiently reproduction from the stools of the felled and removed trees is very vigorous and promising.

(2).—*Artificial Reproduction.*

90. Artificial plantations are required to be undertaken in respect of considerable tracts of denuded lands, where there are no trees, or an insufficient number of trees, to shed seeds and to cause natural reproduction under the bountiful provisions of Nature. The usual systems of artificial plantations, *viz.*, of raising seedlings in nurseries, of irrigated plantations, of ploughing the ground, dibbling and broadcasting were followed during the year, and the results have been as profitable as could be expected.

91. In the two divisions of Khándesh rains held off for a considerable time at the commencement of the season, and the late rains consequently retarded, to some extent, the planting and sowing operations. 1,725 acres were treated under the above methods in the Eastern division at a cost of Rs. 285, and 310 acres in the Western division at Rs. 1,239.

92. Cultural operations were undertaken in 3,422 acres including the area of coupes planted up, in the Násik division, and the total expenditure amounted